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The Rouen Post, December 1950-January 1951

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THE ROUEN POST

NEWS LETTER

Devoted to the interests of the members of B.H. 21 World War I and the 21st Gen.Hosp.
World War II

December, 1950 - January, 1951

Bill Engel, Editor

EDNA M. HAASE FOUND DEAD

They are not long, the days of wine
and roses;
Out of a misty dream
Our path emerges for a while, then
closes
Within a dream. . . Ernest Dowson

Edna Haase, 46, who served with the 21st General Hospital Unit during World War II was found dead in her apartment at the Gatesworth Hotel in St. Louis on January 2, 1951.

Dr. Sim F. Beam, her physician, said to newsmen, that death apparantly was due to an overdose of a sedative she had taken since undergoing an operation last October. Miss Haase, he further stated, was incurably ill.

It was reported two notes were found both of which said she no longer could resist the pain she was suffering. One was addressed to her sister, Mrs. Marie M. Nettle, 1024 Bates Street, St. Louis. The other was addressed to her physician, Dr. Beam.

Edna Haase went overseas with the 21st General Hospital Unit and served thru the campaigns in Africa, Sicily, Italy and France. Becoming ill, she was returned to the United States in January, 1945, and was a patient for several months at O'Reilly General Hospital at Springfield, Missouri.

Medically discharged, Miss Haase became head school nurse for the Clayton Public Schools and held that position at the time of her death.

Besides her sister, she is survived by two brothers, Robert C. Haase, Elgin, Ill. and William E. Haase, Webster Groves, Mo.

Burial was in St. Louis, January 5, 1951.

We, of Rouen Post 242, mourn with the family. We grieve deeply at her needless departure from this earth; but it was her wish and we shall ever respect it and treat it most sacredly.

That Miss Haase had many, many friends was very much in evidence by the large number of beautiful floral pieces sent in her memory to the mortuary.

The members of Rouen Post 242 knew Edna Haase as one of its most loyal members. Her attendance at meetings was legend. For years she headed the Child Welfare Committee.

As a hostess Eddie also left a deep imprint in our book of memories. A couple of summers back she had the gang at her country place on Big River in Jefferson County, Missouri. 'Twas an interesting place she had, situated high upon a bluff, where the humidity and murkiness of the city never penetrated. When our caravan arrived a number of the girls already had enjoyed many hours of the Haase hospitality. We had much fine food, Forney Dixon was at the improvised bar--at the bottom of the bluff some of our fair maidens swam--Shorty Kimbrel tried to fish--and far into the night we enjoyed being away from the city. We are certain Edna Haase would not mind our referring to a bit of 'twilight' before the dark hours of her long night.

It was when the chips were down that Edna M. Haase's star really shone the brightest. She was a highly competent

nurse and served with distinction while with the 21st General Hospital in the African, Sicilian, Italian and French campaigns.

She was credited with having done one of the finest jobs ever, as school nurse for the Clayton Public Schools. There again high efficiency coupled with her personality made a trying job an easy one.

'TILL WE MEET AGAIN, EDNA HAASE!

* * * * *

PVT. DEPKE REPORTS TO SGT. JABLONSKY

Dear Charles: Here I am in a gilded jail, Barnes Hospital, for a while with a heart condition but fortunately I may sit up tomorrow which means that I may get out on good behavior soon. Being here made me think of you--wondering how you are. The day my brother left to return home to Cleveland after two serious eye operations, I had to go to the hospital. They having left, my wife was alone at home. Miss Hilligass Unit 21 nurse paid me a visit which made me feel extra pleased. She's on the office staff.

I appreciate to some degree what it means to be ill. Hope I can get out so that I can see you soon. FRANK DEPKE
P.S. Dear Folks: I do not know just what Frank's condition is--but slow heart and low pressure. Hope we caught it in time. He doesn't know how to be sick--too frisky. I think he is nervous too. Best of Xmas to you both. JOYCE DEPIE

* * * * *

DR. HENRY SCHWARZ TRANSFERRED

Dr. and Mrs. Henry Schwarz, II gave up their home, 5 Hancock Road, Jefferson Barracks, and with their children, moved to Pittsburgh. Dr. Schwarz who has been assistant surgeon to the surgeon-in-chief at Veterans Hospital, Jefferson Barracks, has accepted the position of surgeon-in-chief at the Veterans Hospital in Pittsburgh and will serve as assistant professor in surgery at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

* * * * *

MRS. R. M'K JONES DIES OF INFIRMITIES

Mrs. Robert M'K Jones, widow of the founder of the Robert M'K Jones & Co., dry goods commission firm, and president of the board of managers of St. Louis Children's Hospital for many years, died of infirmities at her home, 456 McKnight Road, Ladue. She was 90 years old.

To most of you the passing of Mrs. Jones means little; however, her devotion to Base Hospital 21 of 1917 shall ever remain indelibly a part of the unit's history. We quote from the ROUEN POST of July 1937.

A REAL PAL

Among those who attended the Twentieth Anniversary Memorial Service in Christ Church Cathedral was an elderly woman, unknown to many members of the Unit. But those who recognized Mrs. Robert Jones recalled her devotion to Unit 21, which dates back to the spring of 1917. Mrs. Jones, then president of the Board of the Children's Hospital, took a deep interest in the mobilization.

When the Unit was ordered overseas she attended the farewell service in Christ Church Cathedral, saw members leave Union Station and she followed them to New York and waved farewell from the pier, when the St. Paul sailed for Liverpool. In April, 1919, she was again on hand to welcome her friends upon their arrival at Union Station. Twenty years later, the announcement of the Memorial Service again brought her to the Cathedral.

* * * * *

CHALFANT IN TOWN

Several days ago, while on our way home, we encountered 'Chap' in front of the Missouri Athletic Club awaiting a cab for transportation to the station. We had a brief but pleasant visit with the former member of Mobile 4, stepchild of B. H. 21.

The years have not taken the toll of Chalfant as they have with some of the rest of us. He still is quite bouyant, with a ready smile and a firm handshake.

During the summer just past we were in Springfield, Missouri, now the home of

Holland Chalfant, and had business relations with some of his mid-morning coffee sipping friends. We passed the plant of the Springfield Tablet Company of which Mr. Chalfant is president but did not have time to visit the former 21ster.

The Springfield Tablet Company is housed in a new and modern building attesting to the success of its management. This is a far cry from the days of B. H. 21 and Mobile Unit 4 with which Chappy was never too happy. A wag once remarked that Mobile 4 must have been a sort of B. H. 21 foreign legion.

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INTERESTING LETTERS

Saginaw, Mich.

Dear Mr. Engel: I have just received a copy of the Post and feel a little negligent for not having sent you some money for expenses. I am enclosing a check for that purpose. I think it would be a good idea if you would simply send a bill each year to the group then it would not be neglected. I will go on record right now for that purpose. If you will just send me a statement each year I will be glad to remit.

It was also nice to get this bulletin. I recognized someone that I remembered from the old unit. I am glad to know that you are back on the job again and feeling fit.

I hope the next time I come to St. Louis I will have a chance to come in and meet you. It will probably be fairly soon because my brother is living there now and has a church on Winnebago Street.

Sincerely. . . Oliver W. Lohr, M.D.

Note! We hope Oliver does not fail us!

* * * * *

Dear Bill: This isn't a big contribution, but it will help out a little for the Rouen Post. I always enjoy reading about the gang.

I was sorry to hear about the car accident, but glad to hear you and wife are getting along alright.

I have a son 15 months old. His name is Kenneth Roy. I hope I'll be able to

make it down there for the next reunion in the Spring.

Sincerely. . . Walter Arnold

* * * * *

4936 South Madison, Tulsa, Okla.

Dear Mr. Engel: Yes, the readers do like to know about the old friends. Wish I could go down the entire list of the 21st General Hospital and know all about them.

Hope the other 700 plus send in a bit so you can keep the paper coming. I think a subscription would be fine. Here is my bit.

Have been married six years December 5. Have a wonderful husband and two lovely daughters, Chloe 5 and De De 3.

We just moved into a new home last week end. We built it, had a lot of fun and love it. So, of course, my address is changed.

Would love to have any of the bunch who come Tulsa way to drop in. Phone 7-4967.

I see Joe Parker in Oklahoma City.

Sincerely... Lela Colvin Cook.

* * * * *

457 W. 57th St. New York 19, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Engel: Can't let this day go by without sending you and the rest of the 21sts, my greetings, too.

Although a small contribution, make me the sixtieth contributor.

Please use the above address for mailing purposes. Happy New Year to you and the rest of you 21sters.

Sincerely.... Jennie T. Nadler

* * * * *

V.A. Hosp. Poplar Bluff

Dear Mr. Engel: Please find enclosed the check for helping in the expenses of the publishing the Rouen Post.

Mrs. Verona Lafferty, Veterans' Adm. Hospital, Hot Springs, S. Dakota would like to have her name placed on the mailing list if it is not already there. I have sent some of my old issues to her and she may have written you by this time.

Geneva Book

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Note: We have placed the name of Verona Lafferty on the list. There has been no previous record of her. We would like to

add at this juncture, at all times are we delighted to add the names of nurses whether they are of the B.H. 21 or of the 21st General. It is our happy belief--and this is supported by the facts--that the nurses of both our units are more loyal to the memories of their units and are the best contributors to the Rouen Post both monetarily and with news items.

The writer always has been proud of the record of our nurses both during time of war and after. There is no reason to change from our belief.

Lindsay, Calif.

Dear Bill: This is mainly to advise you of my change of address so I may continue receiving the Rouen Post. In about a month I expect to be in Cassville, Mo. to live and practice.

After counting heavily on the reunion in Los Angeles I had to miss it, as I was in Mo. After this I expect to be able to attend when you have them in St. Louis.

Enclosed is for printing expenses.

Art Mickel, M. D.

We are pleased that Dr. Mickel has decided to live and practice in Missouri. What a terrific blow this must be to Californians.

Cassville is located in the depths of the Ozarks and is a very interesting town.

Wonder whatever became of the Cassville & Western Railroad?

XMAS CARDS WITH MESSAGES

Mary and John Landgrover, of the 21st G.H. sent greetings and a contribution for the Rouen Post. . . Isabelle Kurtz appended a note to her card, "Many rumors on this west coast, so we are all wondering how much longer we'll be civilians. Enclosed is for the Rouen Post!"

Erma Frohbieter's attractive card had this note, "Say, you can't do that--not coming to our parties, I mean. Hope you are both feeling fine again! Ed.'s note: Mrs. E. is getting along quite well and we hope that we shall be able to do better in 1951 towards attendance at Rouen Post parties. We have missed not being able to visit with our friends of the two 21sts."

Rose M. Elliot's hand-painted card invited us to look inside, which we did and found this message, "I enjoy reading all of the news and thank you so much for sending me the Rouen Post. Texas has a very fine polio center here at the Gonzales Warm Springs Foundation. I have switched from nursing and am doing Occupational Therapy--weak muscles--by carefully supervised participation in all sorts of activities and crafts. I never seem to get to a reunion but enjoy reading about them anyway. Best to all."

Grethe Knudsen's carried a very special message which should surprise a few. We quote, "Dear Bill: This is to tell you that I received my one-half karat sparkler December 16 and am now engaged to Mr. Thorwald Jensen, factory manager at Dynomatic Corp. (Machinery Manufacturers) in Kenosha, Wis. . . Wedding in late Spring or early Summer. . . He's a honey. I am just as goofy as when I was young and foolish. . . We will buy a house in Kenosha and live there. After ten years of widowhood it'll be wonderful to have a man to love and fuss over. . . Since I never had children of my own I am happy to say I'll 'inherit' four grandchildren on T's side. He is 57 and a jovial Dane. Has one blue and one brown eye and a little on the portly side. . . Happy!!! You guessed it. Enjoyed the last Rouen Post."

Ed's note: In behalf of all of the gang we extend heartiest felicitations and hope for them a long and happy life, that their cups of life shall ever be brimful to the overflowing not only with happiness but also the more material things.

We received a large number of Holiday cards from the members of both the 21sts which we enjoyed very much.

CONTRIBUTIONS still needed very badly. Please send checks to:

Justin J. Jackson

7477 Gannon Ave., University City 5, Mo.

Also material for the NEWS-LETTER

Bill Engel

220 N. 4th Street, St. Louis 2, Mo.
